

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1927

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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SUBJ: MAO THOUGHT INTO THE DUSTBIN OF HISTORY?

REF: A. HONG KONG 7167 B. PEKING 1681

1. SUMMARY. IN A REMARKABLY BLUNT LIBERATION
ARMY DAILY ARTICLE, A SPECIAL COMMENTATOR ARGUES FOR THE
REVISION OF MARXISM-LENINISM-MAO TSE-TUNG THOUGHT AS
HISTORICAL CONDITIONS CHANGE. HE CONDEMNS THOSE "STRADDLERS"
AND EVEN "LEADING CADRES" WHO DO NOT DARE TO FACE NEW
PROBLEMS AND BOLDLY SEEK TO REFINE THEORY. THE COMMENTATOR
QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM TENG HSIAO-PING'S SPEECH TO THE
ALL-ARMY POLITICAL WORK CONFERENCE AND CASTIGATES "DOGMA"
AND CALLS FOR "SEEKING TRUTH FROM FACTS." TENG'S IMPRINT
IS THROUGHOUT THE ARTICLE, AND HIS FORCEFUL PURSUIT OF
DOWNGRADING MAO THOUGHT WILL MORE THAN LIKELY BE CONTEN-
TIOUS. IF ALL THEORY IS TO BE QUESTIONED AND CONSTANTLY
REVISED WHO IS TO BE THE ULTIMATE INTERPRETER OF
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REALITY AND THE CORRECT LINE? THE COMMENTATOR DOES
NOT ANSWER THIS QUESTION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE JUNE 24 PEOPLE'S DAILY REPRINTED A TWO PAGE
ARTICLE ENTITLED "MARXISM'S MOST FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE"
BY A SPECIAL COMMENTATOR OF THE LIBERATION ARMY DAILY.
IN CASE ANYONE MISSED THE POINT IN TENG HSIAO-PING'S

JUNE 2 SPEECH TO THE ALL-ARMY POLITICAL WORK CONFERENCE, THE COMMENTATOR MAKES IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR. MARXISM-LENINISM-MAO TSE-TUNG THOUGHT IS NOT STATIC GODMA -- IT IS SUBJECT TO CONSTANT REVISION AND RE-INTERPRETATION AS HISTORICAL CONDITIONS CHANGE. IN A REMARKABLY BLUNT FASHION, THE SPECIAL COMMENTATOR DIRECTLY FACES THE QUESTION OF HOW TO INTERPRET MAO.

3. THE COMMENTATOR BEINGS BY CONDEMNING LIN PIAO, CHEN PO-TA, AND THE GANG OF FOUR TURNING THEORY UPSIDE DOWN AND CONFUSING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEORY AND PRACTICE. THE AUTHOR DEFINES MAO THOUGHT: IT IS THE INTEGRATION OF THE TRUTH OF MARXISM-LENINISM WITH THE CONCRETE REALITY OF THE WORLD AND CHINESE REVOLUTIONS. CHAIRMAN MAO PUT REALITY IN THE PRIMARY POSITION AND SOUGHT TRUTH FROM FACTS. ONE CANNOT BLINDLY COPY ANOTHER NATION'S EXPERIENCE FOR EACH NATION HAS ITS OWN REVOLUTIONARY CONDITIONS, THE COMMENTATOR ARGUES. MAO SAID THAT MARXISM-LENINISM MUST BE INTEGRATED WITH THE REAL CONDITIONS OF CHINA. WE CANNOT DIVORCE THEORY FROM REALITY. THEORY IS DEVELOPED THROUGH STRUGGLE AND THE ANALYSIS OF OBJECTIVE CONDITIONS.

4. THE COMMENTATOR STATES THAT LIN PIAO AND THE GANG OF FOUR TRIED TO IMPLEMENT MARXISM-LENINISM-MAO
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TSE-TUNG THOUGHT WITHOUT REGARD FOR OBJECTIVE CONDITIONS. "WE ... MUST RESTORE THE AUTHORITY (OF MAO'S) "ON PRACTICE", THE AUTHORITY OF SEEKING TRUTH FROM FACTS, THE AUTHORITY OF REALITY AS A STANDARD" EVEN THOUGH THEORY IS A GUIDE FOR ACTION, THEORY MUST COME FROM REALITY. THE COMMENTATOR QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM MARX, LENIN AND MAO TO UNDERSCORE HIS MAIN POINT: MARXISM-LENINISM-MAO TSE-TUNG THOUGHT MUST STAND THE TEST OF REALITY. THEORY IS A PROCESS, CONSTANTLY CHANGING. EVEN AFTER A CORRECT LINE IS ESTABLISHED, IT MUST BE CONSTANTLY RE-EXAMINED AND REVISED BASED ON NEW HISTORICAL CONDITIONS. EVEN MAO CHANGED HIS OWN THEORY IN RESPONSE TO NEW CONDITIONS. LIKEWISE, THE LINES FROM THE ELEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS MUST PASS THE TEST OF PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE. MAO TSE-TUNG THOUGHT HAS ALREADY DEVELOPED AND CHANGED ACCORDING TO REALITY. IT IS INEVITABLE THAT PARTY DOCUMENTS WILL CHANGE IN RESPONSE TO NEW HISTORICAL CONDITIONS. THE MOST IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE IS "SEEKING TRUTH FROM FACTS."

5. THE COMMENTATOR CASTIGATES LIN PIAO AND THE GANG OF FOUR AS "STRADDLERS" WHO TREATED MARXISM-LENINISM-

MAO TSE-TUNG THOUGHT AS DOGMA, NOT SUBJECT TO CHANGE. INCLUDED AS DOGMA ARE "SAYINGS" -- AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE LITTLE RED BOOK OF MAO QUOTATIONS. DUE TO THE INFLUENCE OF LIN PIAO AND THE GANG OF FOUR, "THERE ARE STILL SOME PEOPLE TODAY -- ESPECIALLY LEADING CADRES -- WHO DO NOT DARE ... TO INVESTIGATE NEW PROBLEMS." THEY BLINDLY IMPLEMENT DIRECTIVES AND POLICIES WITHOUT TAKING REALITY INTO ACCOUNT. THEY JUST ACT ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF "UPPER LEVELS" OR THEIR OWN WHIMS AND DO NOT "SEEK TRUTH FROM FACTS." THIS GIVES "AMBITIONISTS AND CONSPIRATORS" AND OPPORTUNITY TO ACT.

6. COMMENT: THE ARTICLE BEARS THE UNMISTAKABLE IMPRINT
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OF TENG HSIAO-PING. MUCH MORE COMPREHENSIVE THAN EARLIER LIBERATION ARMY DAILY ARTICLES ATTACKING THE "SLIPPERY" AND "WIND" FACTIONS, THIS ARTICLE AS WELL AS TENG'S SPEECH WILL MORE THAN LIKELY BE CONTROVERSIAL AND HAVE FAR REACHING EFFECTS. THE ARTICLE IS UNDENIABLY AUTHORITATIVE BUT THE USE OF SLIGHTLY LESS INJUNCTIVE LIBERATION ARMY DAILY FORMAT STANDS OUT -- NOT EVERYONE IN THE LEADERSHIP APPARENTLY IDENTIFIES WITH THIS BOLD REINTERPRETATION OF MAO THOUGHT. IF ALL THEORY IS TO BE QUESTIONED AND CONSTANTLY REVISED, WHO IS TO BE THE ULTIMATE INTERPRETER OF REALITY AND THE CORRECT LINE? THE COMMENTATOR DOES NOT ANSWER THE QUESTION.
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